

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An improved method of selectively annealing a needle wherein at least a portion of the needle is positioned in close proximity with an electromagnetic induction coil, and current is provided through the coil to selectively heat the portion of the needle; the improvement comprising:
 - a) providing the needle with a curved body,
 - b) configuring the coil with a flat configuration defining a coil plane,
 - c) positioning at least a portion of the needle adjacent to the flat coil wherein the curved body of the needle is positioned parallel to the coil plane, and
 - d) providing current through the flat coil to selectively heat the portion of the needle.
2. A needle prepared by the improved method of claim 1.
3. The needle of claim 2 wherein the needle is a surgical needle.
4. The needle of claim 3 wherein the surgical needle has a suture affixed to the needle.